

May 11, 2025  
Baptism Sunday

No matter who you are,  
No matter where you are  
On life's journey,  
You are welcome here.

***Please silence cell phones.***

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.  
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.  
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

PRELUDE

*Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten  
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Randall Thompson

INTROIT

*This Is the Day*  
Kinderchapel Singers  
Tom Clancy, leader  
Erin Fitzgerald and Danielle Mayfield, assistants

Fijian Folk Song

This is the day that the Lord has made  
We will rejoice and be glad in it

We are the children of the living God  
We will rejoice and be glad in him

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

**All: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters, he restoreth my soul.**

One: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**All: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.**

One: Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**All: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.**

One: Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*\* Please stand if you are able to do so.*

\* HYMN

*Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

1. Come, O Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2. Here I pause in my so - journ - ing, giv - ing thanks for hav - ing come,  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of end - less praise.  
come to trust, at ev - ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan - der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we have erred  
and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices of our own hearts.  
We have left undone those things  
which we ought to have done;  
And we have done those things  
which we ought not to have done.  
O God, have mercy upon us.  
Finish the good work that you have begun within us,  
And lead us in your way everlasting.  
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

*She's Got the Whole World in Her Hands* Traditional Spiritual  
Children's Choir New music and  
Scott Banjavcic, piano arr. Stacey Nordmeyer  
Breanna Coe, director

She's got the whole world in Her hands.  
She's got the whole world in Her hands.  
She's got the whole world in Her hands.  
She's got the whole world in Her hands.

She's got the tiny, little baby in Her hands...  
All things bright and beautiful,  
Ev'ry creature great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The whole world in Her hands.

She's got you and me, brother, in Her hands.  
She's got you and me, sister, in Her hands.  
She's got all of us, children, in Her hands.  
She's got the whole world in Her hands.

She's got the whole world in Her hands...  
All things bright and beautiful,  
She's got the whole world in Her hands!

Yeah!

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Harrison Gregory Bryant

Pastor: Harrison, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as a child of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Harrison is now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

**All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your child, Harrison. Inspire his life. May he sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for his parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.**

Pastor: Harrison, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

**All: Amen**

HYMN

*Jesus Loves Me*

1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.  
 2. Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,  
 3. Je - sus loves me! Still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.  
 Tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."  
 Want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

## SCRIPTURE

David Faulkner

### *John 10:1-14 The Message*

Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it.

"I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He's only in it for the money. The sheep don't matter to him. I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep."

## \* STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,  
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,  
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to care for creation,  
to seek justice and to resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*(adapted from the United Church of Canada)*



ANTHEM

*Keep Us in Your Heart*

Tony Payne

Pauls People  
Brooke McGuire, soloist  
Kecia Waldschmidt, director

Hold us in your hand,  
Keep us in your heart.  
If we fall, help us stand up  
And learn to walk again.

Then along the way,  
Send angels to protect us, Lord.  
Hold us in your hand,  
And keep us in your heart.

We know who you are  
And what you want to do.  
Here and now,  
Make us faithful, make us true.

Hold us in your hand,  
Keep us in your heart.  
If we fall, help us stand up  
And learn to walk again.

Then along the way,  
Send angels to protect us, Lord.  
Hold us in your hand,  
And keep us in your heart.

SERMON

“Who’s Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf?”

Jeff Carlson

\* HYMN

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*



1. My\_ shep - herd will sup - ply my\_ need; Je - ho - vah  
2. When I walk through the shades of\_ death Thy pres - ence  
3. The sure pro - vi - sions of my\_ God At - tend me



is his name: In\_ pas - tures fresh he makes me\_ feed, Be -  
is my stay; One word of\_ thy sup - port - ing\_ breath Drives  
all my days; O\_ may thy\_ house be my a - bode, And



-side the liv - ing stream. He brings my\_ wan - dering spir - it\_  
all my fears a - way. Thy hand, in\_ sight of all my\_  
all my work be praise. There would I\_ find a set - tled



back, When I for - sake his ways; And\_ leads me,\_  
foes, Doth still my\_ ta - ble spread; My\_ cup with  
rest, While oth - ers\_ go and come; No\_ more a\_



for his mer - cy's\_ sake, In\_ paths of truth and grace.  
bless - ings o - ver - flows, Thine oil a - noints my head.  
stran - ger, nor a\_ guest, But\_ like a child at home.

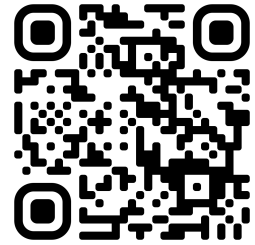
OFFERTORY

*Alleluia*  
Chancel Choir

Randall Thompson

*ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS*

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,  
Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),  
PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



*WELCOME CARD*

*If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for  
worshiping with us today!  
If you would like to learn more about the church, please  
scan the QR code.*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in a single system. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:  
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this lost world's Light,

Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw near, and drink, and live."  
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad,  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found my guid - ing Star, my Sun;

And there I found a rest - ing place, where Je - sus made me glad!  
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I am re - deemed.  
And in that light of life I'll go till trav - eling days are done.



**SAVE THE DATE & NOTE THE TIME**  
**Joint Worship with Lighthouse UCC, JUNE 8 at 10:30 a.m.**

**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Scripture Reader:** David Faulkner

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Doug Clark, Fred Pearson

**Greeter:** David Faulkner

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**Camera Operators:** Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner, Maurice Wallace

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*Today's flowers are given by David Faulkner in memory of his mother, Kathy Faulkner, and for all mothers who have gone before us.*

*Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js](http://tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js).*

**BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY**

*We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.*

May 11 Marcus Ball

May 12 Alec Riportella, Doug Dobmeyer, Rob Sorum

May 13 Om Bienvenu

May 14 Polina Svetlitskaya

May 15 Evie Drew, Jeanie Bond, Mark Roschen, Nancy Heffernan

May 16 Grace Magliola, Helen Chang

May 17 Hattie Ward, Kris Hansen, Larry Damron

## ST. PAULS PRAYS

*Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email. Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it. If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.*

- Loved ones of Mike Stensaas at his death. A funeral service will be held at Lakeview Funeral Home on Thursday, May 15. Visitation: 1-3 p.m. Service: 3 p.m.
- Nancy Barnett in the hospital.
- Rick Tindall, Annie Johnson's uncle, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- John Johnson, Jeff Johnson's father, who is in treatment for prostate cancer.
- Dr. Rod Sippy, as he faces a long recuperation, as well as Erica Barbosa as she heals from a long illness.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Joe Harrington's mother on a recent diagnosis.
- Matthew Wallace, recently diagnosed with epilepsy.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.
- Friends and loved ones of Marcia Knudson at her death.
- That we each find our role, our voice, in bringing peace forward.
- Students, workers, and communities at risk of family separation, loss of homes and businesses due to government overreach.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.
- Craig Wilbanks mother and father each facing serious health challenges.

### **Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources**

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **MAY 11 & 18 – FILL THE SILL**

Let's line our window sills with canned goods (specifically cans of protein: beans, tuna, peanut butter, etc.) to help Common Pantry's efforts to address the challenges that result from economic instability. It's going to take 1,600 to Fill the Sills! Please bring what you "can" to church on May 11 and May 18!

### **MAY 16 – WINDY CITY WINDS–SPRING CONCERT**

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," will present its spring concert "Looking Back" on Friday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pauls UCC, featuring favorite music from their first three seasons, with guest conductor Dr. Kimberly Fleming, Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Illinois, and guest vocalist William Powers, acclaimed bass-baritone of the Metropolitan Opera of New York. Powers will perform *The Man in the Arena* by Chicago area composer Ronald Hill, based on a speech by Theodore Roosevelt. Admission is free and the concert will also be live-streamed at [spucc.org/streaming](http://spucc.org/streaming). Don't miss it!

### **MAY 22 – MOMS' GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m.**

Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! The upcoming dates are Thursday, May 22, and Sunday, June 22. Come meet other moms, make new friends, learn from each other, get advice, pray, and get renewed! Each month has a relevant theme on an issue you face as a mom. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms. RSVP to [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **MAY 22 – WATCH PARTY: LOVE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO AUTHORITARIANISM --**

Thursday, 6:45-8:30 p.m.

Come to a watch party for the Spring Series: "Love as Antidote to Authoritarianism"— a three-part virtual experience that will explore how we can harness love as a force for courageous action. Please join us for "Part 2: Love for Opponents: Tend the Wound" to learn how we listen across lines of difference and reimagine a future that leaves no one behind. Registration and information at: [tinyurl.com/4xjp6yj4](http://tinyurl.com/4xjp6yj4).

### **MAY 27 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall**

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Childcare provided.

**MAY 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW!) - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen**

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, May 28. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever you can make it. We eat around 6:30. Cookies go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us, but would like to participate, you may drop off cookies with your name on them and labeled MARCIA at the church on or before the 28th. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed. Contact Marcia at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or (773) 307-6866. You may also contact Gloria Joseph at [glrjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:glrjoseph@yahoo.com)

**JUNE 1- MAKING DINNER FOR GUESTS AT LPCS - 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

Make a difference by joining us on June 1 to cook dinner for the residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. The activity is to shop, cook, serve, and clean up after dinner for 35 people. We'll be starting at 5:30 p.m. and should be finished by 8:30 p.m. We'll do this at the LPCS kitchen at 600 W. Fullerton. Each participant will be given a shopping list of items to bring. We estimate the cost will be about \$30/participant. If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up to participate [tinyurl.com/msytj254](https://tinyurl.com/msytj254). If you have questions, please contact Evie Kling at [eviekling@gmail.com](mailto:eviekling@gmail.com).

**JUNE 15-21- YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2025 trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Youth will work with activists and church leaders from the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, a dynamic interracial congregation in the heart of the community. We will stay at the church, joining youth and young adults from the Wilkinsburg church in a weeklong effort called "Project Peace." We will do carpentry, urban gardening, and other projects in the neighborhood. Lessons learned will be brought home and put to work at St. Pauls and in Chicago. If you are already planning to join the adventure, you can register here: [tinyurl.com/mrxmed3c](https://tinyurl.com/mrxmed3c).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS**

Want to receive reminders and announcements via text?  
Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!



### **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our New Member Class. Together, we'll talk about faith and our community and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship and childcare will be provided as needed. *See other upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).*

### **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**

Do you have a high school, college, or graduate school graduate? Please email their name and school to Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org). They will be recognized in worship on June 1 during the youth mission trip commissioning on Baccalaureate Sunday!

### **POP TAB PROGRAM: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY**

Help support the Ronald McDonald Charities by saving aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, canned foods, pet food, etc. Bring your pop tab donations to the Social Hall and add them to our collection bin. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young children to helping others and recycling. Little things like pop tabs can make a big difference! To date we have donated more than 35 pounds of pop tabs!!

### **DRIVERS NEEDED - SUNDAYS AND WEEKDAYS**

We need members to drive older members to church on Sundays and to occasional doctors' appointments. Please email Pastor Liz for details at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **ST. PAULS MIGRANT HOUSING PROJECT LEGAL FUND**

St. Pauls housed five Venezuelan migrant families in our building over the past two years. Today, nearly every single member of these families has achieved legal status, helping to safeguard their presence in Chicago for the time being and allowing them to work. Such legal aid is costly and ongoing. In a time of wild anxiety and uncertainty for these new friends, you can help make a difference for our migrant families by supporting our legal aid fund. If you'd like to make a donation, please choose "Migrant Housing Project - Legal Fund" from the drop-down menu on our giving page: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving>.

## **HAVE SOME ODD JOBS? WE'VE GOT SOME WILLING WORKERS!**

As they continue to work at supporting themselves financially, members of our migrant family friends would love to work for you. They are available for things like house cleaning, handyman repairs, moving items, painting, deck-staining, demolition & clean-up, and carpentry on things like deck and drywall. We have been assigning work at a rate of \$25/hour and ask that the jobs be a minimum of 3-4 hours. You can find out more by contacting Migrant Housing Project Coordinator David Brown at [dbrown@harrington-brown.com](mailto:dbrown@harrington-brown.com).

## **BUILDING UPDATE - ROOM NUMBERS AT ST. PAULS**

St. Pauls is in the process of converting from room names to numbers. When construction is completed, formal signage will replace the temporary signage. Major locations, i.e., Sanctuary (115), Social Hall (015), Kitchen (010), Gym (009) will commonly use those titles, but their numbers are posted. Numbering begins at the Fullerton entrance (largely inaccessible during construction) and rises to the Kemper Place doorway: Main Level (100s), Upper Level (200s), Lower Level (000s). Yes many rooms have cycled through many names, and we'd love to catalogue the ones you remember using. Thank you for your flexibility.

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our nursery is looking for caring and compassionate volunteers to support our staff and provide extra attention to our little ones. If you love playing, reading, and nurturing young children, we'd love to have you join us! Whether you can help for a few hours a month or on a regular basis, your time and kindness will make a meaningful impact. Sign up for a Sunday slot here: <https://tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp>.

## **LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP**

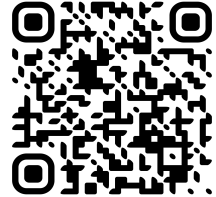
Registration is open for summer fun! Our part-time summer program is geared toward ages 3+ and runs from June through August, Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Camp combines play and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. We create arts & crafts, enjoy music & games, making friends and memories along the way! There is a 10% sibling discount and 20% Church Member discount (contact Erin for the code at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org)). Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nt8zsvx>.

### **LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 25-26**

We are accepting applications for the fall! We model and facilitate problem-solving strategies, build empathy and develop self-regulation skills. Through hands-on learning and play, children will benefit from structured socialization and gain a greater sense of themselves within our St. Pauls community. If you are interested in learning more about early education classes for your child, visit our website at [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org) or contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org).

### **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Please register your K-6<sup>th</sup> Sunday School students, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students, and high school class members by scanning this QR code.



### **LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP**

We've all lost someone we loved. Whether you lost someone you loved last month, last year, or five years ago, you can still grieve that loss. Grief changes, but it never goes away. Would you be interested in sharing stories with others who are in similar situations? We're not therapists, just your friends and neighbors who are also grieving and would like to share our ideas and learn how others are coping. We're planning to start a grief support group at St. Pauls, but we need to make sure there's interest for this. Please contact Pam Woll at [pamelawoll3333@gmail.com](mailto:pamelawoll3333@gmail.com) if you think this might benefit you.

### **"HEALING HEARTS" PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY**

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At St. Pauls, we understand the deep bond you shared with your beloved pet/family member and we're here to offer support, understanding and a virtual shoulder to lean on. To join, visit [tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support](http://tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support). We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Age 18+ only, 30 participants maximum.

### **PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

Broaden your understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict in this thoughtful and supportive group. All are welcome. Contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com).

## **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

Stand Up and Be Counted!

Lee Zeldin, Environmental Protection Administration's (EPA) Administrator, "has asked Congress to stop 13 states and Washington D.C. from setting strong emission standards for passenger vehicles." (Climate Reality Project website, May 7, 2025).

This means more air pollution, which in turn drives up greenhouse house gas emissions and increases the incidence of respiratory distress.

Contact your Senators and let your voice be counted via email:

Sen. Dick Durbin at [durbin.senate.gov](mailto:durbin.senate.gov)

Sen. Tamny Duckworth at [Duckworth-duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Duckworth-duckworth.senate.gov)

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you if you are going through a tough time.

Extensively trained in compassionate Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are matched confidentially with someone in our congregation who is going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc. They meet with you once a week for an hour to offer support through listening, companionship and prayer. If you wonder whether having a Stephen Minister might be helpful for you, please speak with Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org). Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

## **WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**

Scan the QR codes to discover ways to connect with others.

### **JOIN A GROUP**



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For St. Pauls sponsored events, send to [info@spucc.org](mailto:info@spucc.org) **by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin.** Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

## TODAY'S MUSIC

***Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier***, *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here* and ***Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten***, *We Who Only Let Loving God Rule*, are chorale preludes, which is a compositional genre where the composer creates an “arrangement” using a well-known melody as a theme. The chorale, hymn, and melody of *Liebster Jesu* was composed by Benjamin Schmolck (1672-1737). Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) thought so highly of this chorale that he set it for organ four times. *Wer nur ...* was also composed in the 17th century by Georg Neumark (1621-1681). Randall Thompson, (1899-1984), who composed our Offertory anthem, set his own versions of these two great hymns.

***This Is the Day*** uses a folk melody and unattributed words from Fiji. It was first published in 1967 in an Australian hymnal. It lends itself to be sung in a call and response style.

***Come O Fount of Every Blessing***, to the tune NETTLETON, is from the rich American tradition of the Sacred Harp hymnals, specifically *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music*. The text was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790), who began his professional life as an apprentice to a hairdresser before committing himself to a religious life.

***She's Got the Whole World in Her Hands*** employs the traditional spiritual known by so many with the addition of the same inclusive language that our pastors often use for God during their prayers. The beautiful words of *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), are included and enhance the meaning. Stacey Nordmeyer provided this arrangement and also added new music. She has been composing and publishing for more than 35 years. She holds the position of General Manager, Choral Publication at Hal Leonard and Shawnee Press.

***Jesus Loves Me This I Know*** is one of the first hymns many children learn. The words are both simple and profound. They were written in 1859 by Anna Bartlett Warner (1824-1915). Born in New York City, she wrote many hymn texts and collaborated with her sister Sarah on novels. The composer of the tune, JESUS LOVES ME, is William Bradbury (1816–1868). He penned this sweet melody in 1861 and also composed the famous hymn, *Just As I Am*.

***Keep Us in Your Heart*** was composed by Tony Payne. Mr. Payne retired in 2024 as Music Professor Emeritus at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where he had taught since 1983. He holds degrees from Wheaton, Bowling Green State University, and a doctorate in composition from Northwestern University. He has published numerous works.



***My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*** employs a text by the great English poet and hymnodist, Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Watts set the entire book of Psalms poetically, many of which we still sing today, notably *Our God Our Help in Ages Past*. RESIGNATION is another hymn melody whose composer is unattributed, and is from the great early American hymnal, *The Sacred Harp*.

Randall Thompson (1899-1984) wrote ***Alleluia*** in 1940 on a commission from Serge Koussevitsky, Music Director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO). It was performed by the entire student body for the opening exercises of the Berkshire Music Center, summer home of the BSO. An interesting historical note is that this anthem was sung to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the night before he was assassinated. A high school choir that was supposed to have sung for the meeting in Memphis that evening was delayed by bus trouble and missed the meeting. The students were upset, and when Dr. King found out they had arrived late, he asked them to please sing for him in his motel room. The students crowded into that small place and sang this inspiring work, the last music in this world that Dr. King would hear.

***I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say***, tune KINGSFOLD, first appeared in a 19th century collection of English folk melodies, but may date to the Middle Ages. The text was composed by Scottish clergy, Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), who came from a long line of ministers and composed many hymn texts and religious poems.

***Go Now in Peace*** was composed in 1976 by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992), who became one of the most performed and popular composers of church anthems especially for children's voices. One of her hymns, *In the Bulb There is a Flower*, was chosen for our *New Century Hymnal*. Born in Evanston, she received her musical training at Wellesley College, where her husband was a professor of homiletics.

***Synergy*** was composed in 2023 by Kris Hansen (b. 1995). The music expresses a collective experience of support. A member of our St. Arbucks Quartet, he was raised, baptized, and confirmed at St. Pauls. He is an active singer, music producer, composer, trumpet player, and keyboard player in his own group, Semi-Cycle. He also performs regularly with other bands, including The Walters, Kweku Collins, and Othersides.

# Special Music Theme for 2024-2025

## HEAR Ye! + Bach

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

**H**- Hebrew

**E** - English

**A** - Austrian

**R** - Russian

**November 3, 2024 - Reformation Sunday - *Lobet den Herrn* - Bach**

**December 8, 2024 - Christmas Cantata (Hebrew & English)**

*Nachamu, nachamu ami* - Max Janowski (*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*)

*Fantasia on Christmas Carols* - Ralph Vaughan Williams

with guest artist William Buchman, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

**February 16, 2025 - Northwestern University Chapel Choir – Guest choir in worship**

**March 9, 2025 - *Komm, Jesu, komm* - Bach**

**April 6, 2025 - (Austria) - *Requiem* - Mozart**

**May 18, 2025 - (Russian) - *Symphony of Psalms* - Stravinsky/Shostakovich**

Mark these dates in your calendar!

## **ABOUT ST. PAULS**

*Making a Joyful Sound in the City!*

St. Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ+ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, during the past 180 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
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For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
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Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



## **WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!**

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,  
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and  
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,  
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are blessed by your presence and  
we are glad you are here.